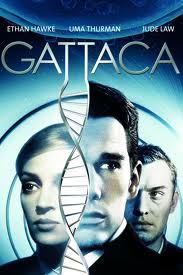
** Year 11 Orientation: English Texts Getting Knowledge Ready**

**Tagline:** “*There is no gene for the human spirit.”*

What do you think this means?



**Image:**

Describe the image on the poster/s? (Discuss colour, texture, patterns etc.)

Why might these images have been chosen?

What clues does the story cover give to the viewer?

**Poster:** What does the poster tell you about the characters, plot and setting?

Character: (Who are they?)

Plot (What happens and why?):

Setting (When and where does the action take place):

**Genre**

1. What type of film do you think *Gattaca* can be categorised as? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. How do you know this?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Writer/director biography:**  New Zealand-born screenwriter-director Andrew Niccol began his career in London, successfully directing TV commercials before moving to Los Angeles in order to make films "longer than 60 seconds." He interested high-powered producer Scott Rudin in his The Truman Show (1998) script, but Rudin was not willing to gamble on a rookie director, particularly when Jim Carrey came aboard, swelling the budget to about $60 million. Peter Weir directed. Niccol actually made his screenwriting and directing debut with Gattaca (1997) (1997), a superb, well-acted sci-fi movie that raised issues of genetic engineering in a totalitarian environment.  Source: *http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0629272/bio* |  |

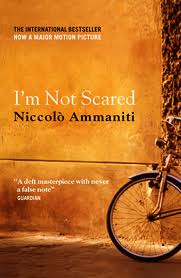
**Other films by Andrew Niccol:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **The Truman Show** | **S1m0ne** | **The Terminal** | **Lord of War** | **In Time** | **The Host**  Coming soon! |
| Writer  producer | Writer director  producer | Writer executive producer | Writer  director producer | Writer  director producer | Screenplay  Director  producer |

What is the reoccurring subject matter in Andrew Niccol’s films? Why do you think this is?

**Title:** The name "Gattaca" is composed entirely of the letters used to label the nucleotide bases of DNA. The four nitrogen bases of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) are adenine, thymine, cytosine, and guanine. Now try and say it really quickly!

Why was this title chosen? Is it a good title? Why/why not?

**Year 11 Orientation: English Texts Getting Knowledge Ready**

**Image**

Describe the image on the cover? (Discuss colour, texture, patterns etc.)

What clues does the story cover give to the reader?

**Cover:** What does the cover tell you about the characters, plot and setting?

Character: (Who might they be?)

Plot (What happens and why?):

Setting (When and where does the action take place):

**Genre**

What type of book do you think *I’m Not Scared* can be categorised as? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How do you know this?

**Audience**

Would both children and adults enjoy this book? Why/why not?

**Author biography:**

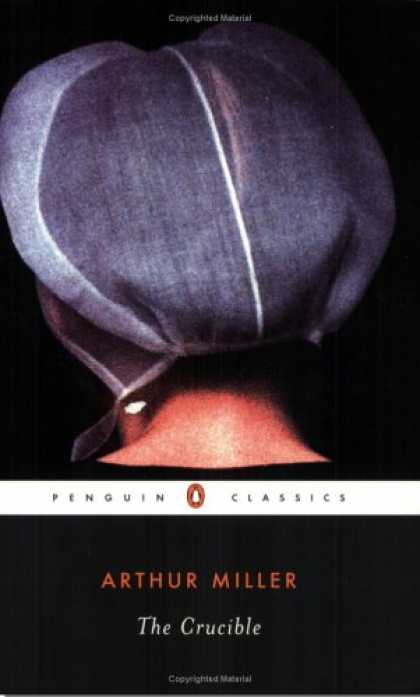
|  |
| --- |
| **Author Biography:**  Niccolò Ammaniti was born in Rome in 1966. He has written  three novels and a collection of short stories. He won the prestigious  Italian Viareggio-Repaci Prize for Fiction with his bestselling novel  *I'm Not Scared*, which has been translated into thirty-five languages.  **Other books translated into English:**   * ***I’ll Steal You Away***   In a tiny Italian village, a young boy named Pietro is growing up tormented by bullies and ignored by his parents. When an aging playboy, Graziano Biglia, returns to town, a change is in the air: Pietro decides to take on the bullies, his lonely teacher Flora finds romance with the town’s prodigal son, and the inept janitor at the school proclaims his love for his favorite prostitute. But the village isn’t ready for such change, and when Graziano seduces and forgets Flora, both she and Pietro’s tentative hopes seem crushed forever.   * ***The Crossroads***   Thirteen-year-old Cristiano Zena lives with his father Rino, a gormless neo-fascist, in a depressed semi-rural area of Italy. Rino and his drinking buddies are planning a ram raid on an ATM using a converted tractor while the wary, adoring Cristiano sits in on their meetings. As he watches their half-baked plans unravel, he daydreams about the unattainable Fabiana Ponticelli. He has no idea that something very, very bad is about to happen. Or that it will change his life forever. |

What is the reoccurring subject matter in Ammaniti’s books?

**Blurb:** A sweltering heat wave hits a tiny village in Southern Italy, sending the adults to seek shelter, while their children bicycle freely throughout the countryside, playing games and getting into trouble. On a dare, nine-year-old Michele Amitrano enters an old, abandoned farmhouse, where he stumbles upon a secret so terrible that he can’t tell anybody. As the truth emerges, Michele learns that the horror in the creepy old house is closer to home than he ever imagined.

After reading the blurb, what do you think will happen in the book and why?

After reading the blurb, what message is the author trying to give the audience?

**Year 11 Orientation: English Texts Getting Knowledge Ready**

What plays have you read or seen live on stage?

What is the value of reading as opposed to seeing a play performed?

**Image**

Describe the image on the cover? (Discuss colour, texture, patterns etc.)

What clues does the story cover give to the reader?

**Cover:** What does the cover tell you about the characters, plot and setting?

Character: (Who are they?)

Plot (What happens and why?):

Setting (When and where does the action take place):

**Genre**

What type of play do you think *The Crucible* can be categorised as?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How do you know this?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Playwright Biography:** Arthur Asher Miller was an American playwright and essayist. He was a prominent figure in American literature and cinema for over 61 years, writing a wide variety of plays, including celebrated plays such as The Crucible, A View from the Bridge, All My Sons, and Death of a Salesman, which are still studied and performed worldwide. Miller was often in the public eye, most famously for refusing to give evidence against others to the House Un-American Activities Committee, being the recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama among other awards, and for marrying Marilyn Monroe. At the time of his death, Miller was considered one of the greatest American playwrights. |  |

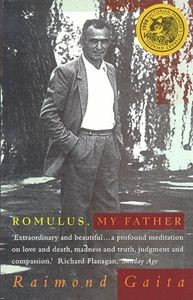
**Other works by Arthur Miller:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Stage plays**  No Villain (1936)  They Too Arise (1937, based on No Villain)  Honors at Dawn (1938, based on They Too Arise)  The Grass Still Grows (1938, based on They Too Arise)  The Great Disobedience (1938)  Listen My Children (1939, with Norman Rosten)  The Golden Years (1940)  The Man Who Had All the Luck (1940)[49]  The Half-Bridge (1943)  All My Sons (1947)  Death of a Salesman (1949)  An Enemy of the People (1950, based on Henrik Ibsen's play An Enemy of the People)  The Crucible (1953)  A View from the Bridge (1955)  A Memory of Two Mondays (1955) | After the Fall (1964)  Incident at Vichy (1964)  The Price (1968)  The Reason Why (1970)  Fame (one-act, 1970; revised for television 1978)  The Creation of the World and Other Business (1972)  The Archbishop's Ceiling (1977)  The American Clock (1980)  Playing for Time (television play, 1980)  Elegy for a Lady (short play, 1982, first part of Two Way Mirror)  Some Kind of Love Story (short play, 1982, second part of Two Way Mirror)  I Think About You a Great Deal (1986)  Playing for Time (stage version, 1985)  I Can’t Remember Anything (1987, collected in Danger: Memory!)  Clara (1987, collected in Danger: Memory!)  The Last Yankee (1991)  Finishing the Picture (2004) |

What is the reoccurring subject matter in Miller’s plays? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** Miller confronts all three definitions of crucible in Webster's dictionary: 1. A vessel for melting and calcimine; a substance using a high degree of heat; 2. a severe test; or 3. a place or situation in which concentrated forces interact to cause or influence change or development.

Why was this title chosen? Is it a good title? Why/why not?

**Year 11 Orientation: English Texts Getting Knowledge Ready**

**Image**

Describe the image on the cover? (Discuss colour, texture, patterns etc.)

What clues does the story cover give to the reader?

**Cover:** What does the cover tell you about the characters, plot and setting?

Character: (Who are they?)

Plot (What happens and why?):

Setting (When and where does the action take place):

**Genre**

What type of book can *Romulus, My Father* be categorised as?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How do you know this?

Why was this title chosen? Is it a good title? Why/why not?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Author Biography:** | |
| Raimond Gaita was born in 1946 in Germany. He is Professor of Moral Philosophy at King’s College University of London, and Professor of Philosophy at Australian Catholic University. His memoir ROMULUS, MY FATHER won the 1998 Victorian Premier’s Literary Award.  Gaita’s other books include, GOOD AND EVIL: AN ABSOLUTE CONCEPTION, A COMMON HUMANITY: THINKING ABOUT LOVE & TRUTH & JUSTICE, which was one of the Economist’s best books of 2000, and THE PHILOSOPHER’S DOG, which explores our relationship to animals and the natural world and was short listed for the New South Wales Premier’s Award and the Age Book of the Year, both in 2003. In 2003 he edited a collection of essays on the invasion of Iraq entitled WHY THE WAR WAS WRONG.  Critically acclaimed both by philosophers and the general reader, Gaita’s books have been published around the world and translated into a number of languages. |  |

**Blurb:** *Romulus Gaita fled his home in his native Yugoslavia at the age of thirteen, and came to Australia with his young wife Christina and their infant son Raimond soon after the end of World War II. Tragic events were to overtake the boy’s life, but Raimond Gaita has an extraordinary story to tell about growing up with his father amid the stony paddocks and flowing grasses of country Australia.*

*Written simply and movingly, Romulus, My Father is about how a compassionate and honest man taught his son the meaning of living a decent life. It is about passion, betrayal and madness, about friendship and the joy and dignity of work, about character and fate, affliction and spirituality. No one will read this wonderful book without an enhanced sense of the possibilities of being alive.*

What is a blurb?

How does it encourage people to buy or borrow the book?

After reading the blurb, what do you think will happen in the book and why?

After reading the cover, what message is the author trying to give the audience?